FAMILY LIFE

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UNMARRIED MOTHERS

Each year in the United States more than 200,000 children are born illegitimately. The number may easily amount to a quarter of a million, since reporting is not complete. Two-thirds of the births are to non-white mothers. Many of the mothers involved in this problem are young, but the proportion who are between 25 and 34 has been increasing rapidly. The whole problem needs much more study, and examination of its details is not easy, for obvious reasons. Sociologist Clark E. Vincent has been working on it for a decade, and now brings together his findings and conclusions in a valuable book, *Unmarried Mothers* (Pp. 308, price $6 from the Free Press of Glencoe, 60 Fifth ave., New York, N.Y., 1961.)

It goes without saying that there is no simple explanation of the phenomenon, and therefore no easy panacea to prevent it. Dr. Vincent starts by analyzing the confusion of contrasts and contradictions in the attitudes, rules, and social practices by which illicit sexual behavior is judged. He points to "the philosophy of fun-morality" as the source of many social problems. Children are reared by it: if the child enjoys something, then that something (even the type of food) is supposed to be good for him. Teachers are warned that a child will learn more and faster if he is "having fun." Personnel relations in business and industry increasingly stress the necessity of making work enjoyable and having the employees feel that they are "just one big, happy family." Not merely the "mass media" but many serious writers extended this to sexual relations, before and outside of marriage. Sex is fun; but don't get "caught" —that is the implicit or explicit teaching to which the population is subjected by an inundation, 24 hours a day, of propaganda. In the light of this cultural coloring, and of the differences in the meaning of sexual relations for male and female respectively, the phenomenon of illegitimate motherhood may be better understood.

Earlier studies, made largely on girls who came to institutions or were sent to other institutions as juvenile delinquents, led to the conclusion that the illegitimate mother represented predominantly a section of the population with little educational or social or eco-

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nomic background. Dr. Vincent began his study by canvassing all the physicians in private practice in Alameda county, California, and getting details about the illegitimate pregnancies with which they had dealt. He was able to interview a great many of the mothers themselves. This and other studies led him to conclude that the illegitimate mothers are a fairly representative sample of the entire population. The difference is, in part, that the poor or feebleminded girl gives birth to her baby in one type of surroundings, under public surveillance and at public expense; the prominent or well-to-do family sends the daughter into a different part of the continent for a year's visit and she does not get into the statistics, the more so as 14 states (including California) do not make the fact of illegitimacy a part of the birth record.

Studying the backgrounds of the unwed mothers in comparison with a matched group of single women who had never been pregnant, Dr. Vincent did not find any marked and consistent difference in religious training, sexual education, dating patterns, methods of child rearing, prevalence of broken or unhappy homes. His discussion of whether any kind of home influence and training might prevent difficulty is particularly valuable. Training must be internalized, that is, made an integral part of the girl's personality, and it must then have continuing effectualness, that is, it must be steadily practiced and reinforced, if it is to be of real value—as much of the training was not, in this study. Dr. Vincent suggests five measures that are necessary if a girl is to be protected satisfactorily from anti-social behavior:

1. A belief in the primacy of values and convictions strongly held;

2. The teaching and practice of intellectual, emotional, and behavioral integrity—which is to think, feel, and act in accordance with what one understands, believes, and professes;

3. Experiencing the dignity derived from self-discipline and from assuming responsibility for one's own ideas, feelings, and behavior;

4. Evaluating one's own behavior as a part of a totality of on-going relationships and social contexts, rather than as an isolated act to be judged as good or bad in and of itself; and

5. A belief in each individual's capacity to reason, to feel, and to decide wisely, on the basis of values that are understood and shared.

In the light of the foregoing, it must be admitted that much of the traditional teaching, from home, school, church, and community agencies alike, is hopelessly perfunctory; but that an intelligent effort could make it profoundly effective.

Dr. Vincent (who is currently Training Specialist and Administrator for Research Training Grants in the Social Sciences with the National Institute of Mental Health) points up graphically many of the remarkable, and probably very harmful, contradictions in public opinion and action—for example, the lack of concern with the unwed father. Although biologically he is half the cause of illegitimacy, there

are 25 studies of the woman for every one study of the man, in the scanty literature on the whole subject. Again, he suggests that "when research, education, and the promulgation of legitimate and normative family life are allocated less money than is given for the care, treatment, and rehabilitation of individuals purportedly coming mostly from 'family failure'—there are certain latent functions or incidental results." We should not spend less on the failures, but far more to prevent them, even though "there is no panacea for illegitimacy or any easily applied formula for its prevention." The unwed mother may be given more help, better treatment than the married mother.

Moreover, there is a strong demand, from childless couples, for children to be adopted, and illegitimacy is the main source of such children. (But mainly for the white group—"possibly as many as 70% of all white illegitimate children are given for adoption, but only between 3% and 5% of the non-white illegitimate children are adopted.") Agencies take great care to select suitable adoptive parents, which illustrates "the indirect way that normative, legitimate family life can be inadvertently weakened by giving greater protection to the rights of illegitimate children than to those of legitimate children to have a good home and a stable family."

Most of the book is simply written but in the closing section, dealing with the all-important subject of prevention, Dr. Vincent gets a little more deeply into psychological and sociological jargon which may blunt the force of his constructive suggestions. This is the more regrettable because he has much to say which is important to every thoughtful person concerned with making the contemporary American culture promote growth of personality and increase of social stability rather than individual deterioration and social disintegration.

Inexpensive Pamphlets

SELECTED FILMS ON CHILD LIFE, Pp. 79, price 30c from Supt. of Documents, U.S. Govt. Printing Office, Washington 25, D.C. (Catalog No. FS 3.209:376.)

RHEUMATIC FEVER AND RHEUMATIC HEART DISEASE IN ADULTS, Pp. 14, free on request to American Heart Assn., 44 E. 23d st., New York 10, N.Y.

PREDICTION AND SELECTION OF DELINQUENTS, Pp. 29, price 15c from Supt. of Documents, U.S. Govt. Printing Office, Washington 25, D.C. (Catalog No. FS 3.222:17.)

TWINS—a guide to their education, Pp. 54, price $1.25 from Main Line Mothers of Twins Club, c/o Mrs. Harper Brown, 441 Bair Road, Berwyn, Pa.

WHO ARE THE WORKING MOTHERS? 2 pages, price 5c from Supt. of Documents, U.S. Govt. Printing Office, Washington 25, D.C. (Catalog No. L 13.11:37.)

YOUR CHURCH AND THE LEISURE TIME OF ADULTS, Pp. 8, price 30c from The Friendship Club, St. Michael's Protestant Episcopal church, 225 W. 99th st., New York, N.Y.

PARENT-STUDENT RELATIONSHIPS

by HERBERT J. MILES
Professor of Sociology — Carson-Newman College

There are many forces at work in contemporary American culture that tend to undermine family solidarity and efficiency.

1. The family has been forced to pay the social costs of increased industrialization and urbanization in the form of mothers working, neglected children, families on the move, family crowding and commuting. Also, family interdependence has declined and the community has taken over many family functions.

2. The family has been forced to pay the social costs of increased recreational organization in the form of baby sitters, separate recreation for family members, and the promotion of borderline activities for profit.

3. The family has been forced to pay the social costs of our increased communications system; i.e., the press, radio, television, fiction, the stage, etc. This has taken many forms. Sex is over-emphasized. Early courtship and early quick easy marriages are encouraged. Unbridled self-expression and self-indulgence are exalted. Violence and intrigue are haloized. The line between right and wrong is often blurred.

In the midst of such trends, what has happened to the Christian family? The department of Sociology of Carson-Newman College (Jefferson City, Tenn.) has attempted to gather some limited facts.

During the spring semester (1961) a questionnaire on student-parent relationships was filled in by 325 students who were enrolled in sociology and psychology classes. Of the sample of 325, fifty-one per cent were males and forty-nine per cent were females. The sample contained seventy freshmen, eighty-one sophomores, eighty-seven juniors, and eighty-seven seniors. The questionnaire studied parent-student relationships as related to the student's (1) education, (2) finances, (3) courtship, and (4) selection of a vocation. This study is best understood in light of the fact that Carson-Newman students come from largely middle-class homes, and that ninety per cent of them are Baptist homes.

The survey revealed that eighty per cent of the students were receiving a higher education than their parents, sixteen per cent were receiving the same amount, while only four per cent will probably receive less education.

Who pays the bill? Our survey revealed that sixty-seven per cent of the parents are paying for all of the college education of their children. Twenty-eight per cent of the students were paying for their own education, while five per cent is being paid by others, such as relatives, friends, churches, etc.

The survey indicates that parents usually discuss a vocation with their children and offer some suggestions, but leave the actual selection of a vocation up to their children. This is indicated by the fact that ninety-three per cent of the parents seldom or never attempted to interfere with the vocational plans of their children and only one per cent of parents attempted to make the decision for them.

The crucial question to the students

in this study was, "Has your attitude toward your parents changed since you have been away from home attending college?" Three per cent stated, "I have changed considerably but I still feel they were too strict in some ways." In contrast, eighty-five per cent responded, "Now as I look back, I feel they were doing right in most things."

The weakest family link revealed in the study is the fact that fifty-six per cent of the students indicated that their parents gave them very little or no sex instruction. Perhaps Tennessee Baptists and Southern Baptists need to plan for greater efficiency in sex education on the family level.

However, this weak spot which has been inherent in our total culture is overshadowed by the other major facts of the study, such as, (1) eighty per cent of the students are receiving a higher education than their parents, (2) eighty-seven per cent think their children (students) spend money "wisely" or "very wisely," (3) ninety per cent of the students do not object to their parents inquiring about how they spend their money, (4) eighty-four per cent consulted with their parents before making major decisions about their vocations, while ninety-nine per cent of parents allowed their children to make their own decision about a vocation, (5) ninety per cent of the students felt that their parents have been "fair" in rules and regulations about courtship, and (6) eighty-five per cent felt that their parents were doing the right things in the rules and regulations they used in an effort to guide them in the processes of growing up.

In other words, the study shows a picture of parents who (1) are ambitious for their children, (2) who attempt to control their children within proper limits, yet (3) allow their children freedom to plan their own lives as they are mature enough to do so. It is a picture of college students who are independent, mature, and secure, or nearly so, yet appreciate the heritage of their parents' ideas, ideals, and leadership, and who still look to them for advice, and encouragement. It is a picture of reciprocal love, confidence, trust and appreciation between parents and their children in college.

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Research Notes

GIRLS write better than boys, and women write better than men, in a survey reported by the national Handwriting Foundation. College professors, clergymen, and purchasing agents were found to have the worst handwriting; physicians wrote almost twice as legibly as college professors, notwithstanding the general difficulty in reading medical prescriptions! Bookkeepers were found to be the most legible writers and teachers also ranked high, with elementary teachers doing better than high school teachers. "The more men use handwriting, the more legible their handwriting seemed to become. Women, however, seemed to write more legibly when they did less writing by hand."

ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS in the U.S. in 1959 totaled 221,000 according to the U.S. Public Health Service. It is recognized that the reporting of such births is always incomplete.

BREAST-FEEDING of infants is still declining, in spite of educational efforts to promote it. Survey of 1,904 hospital nurseries found 63% of the newborn on a bottle, as compared with

30% in 1950. College educated mothers are the most likely to breastfeed their infants.—Parenthetically, a bulletin by Dr. Mary Jane Hungerford, telling how breastfeeding can be managed most successfully, is available from the AIFR office for 10c.

MONKEY BUSINESS in child rearing hasn't produced very satisfactory results so far. A few years ago much publicity was given to an experiment in which newborn monkeys were taken from their mothers and "brought up" by machines made of wood and terry cloth and fitted with milk-giving outlets. Photographs were published showing how the baby monkey would cling trustfully to the towel frame "just like mama." These monkeys are now grown and have become mothers themselves, Dr. Harry F. Harlow told the American Psychological Assn., and they are "neurotic, helpless, hopeless, heartless mothers almost totally destitute of any maternal feelings." Q.E.D.

AMERICAN CHILDREN do not compare favorably with European children in physical fitness, but they show to advantage in some other ways, particularly in tending to be more frank, honest, and less defensive than many others, according to a survey reported at the Sixth International Congress on Mental Health, in Paris, by Harold H. Anderson and Gladys L. Anderson of Michigan State University. Testing 10,000 youngsters in 10 countries over a period of 10 years, the researchers used incomplete stories, e.g., boys are playing football in front of a house and accidentally break a window. Nobody could have seen who did it—what would you do about it? In the U.S., 64% to 72% of the boys said they would seek out the owner, identify themselves; almost 50% of the boys offered to pay for the breakage. In other societies, 60% of Norwegian children, 55% of Finnish children, 52% of Swedish, and 50% of British chose a similar ending to the story, but only 26% of German youngsters and 8% of rural Mexican children felt that the boys would seek out the owner of the broken window and identify themselves.

STUDYING NARCOTIC ADDICTS, Robert L. Wolk and Meyer H. Diskind concluded that they are unduly dependent on mother or wife and that the female in turn is fully accepting of this because of her own warped emotional needs. The addict's mother often fosters his addiction so as to keep him dependent and thus give her a purpose in life (she must keep him infantile.) Similarly with wives; and obviously the mother or wife in the case must be treated, as well as the addict, if a "cure" is to be effected. Hospitalization alone is not enough; casework with the entire family is essential. The authors are associated with the New York Division of Parole's special narcotics project and report in *Crime and Delinquency,* April, 1961.

HOUSING EXPERTS queried at a roundtable in Washington, D.C. disagreed completely as to whether older persons prefer to stay among those of their own age. Charles L. Cheezum, a St. Petersburg, Fla., home builder reported that a majority of retirees prefer living with others of their own age and interests. Donald Jaenicke of the Douglas Fir Plywood Assn., Tacoma, Wash., said a survey made in the West found 80% of persons questioned preferred living in areas that contained other age groups.

NEW BOOKS IN BRIEF REVIEW

THE HUMAN SIDE OF SUCCESSFUL COMMUNICATION at home and at work, by Robert E. Moore. Pp. 192, price $4.95 from Prentice-Hall, Englewood Cliffs, N.J., 1961.

There are three necessary ingredients in successful communication, says Mr. Moore: (1) you must express yourself clearly, (2) the other person must listen, and (3) the other person *must want* to listen. In marriage, perhaps No. 3 is most often lacking. "Communication" has become a by-word in the discussion of human relations, including those in the home, but much of the writing that concerns it has either been "deep stuff" of no value to the ordinary person, or else trivialities. Mr. Moore (teacher, lecturer, advertising executive, and author of several other books in this general field), has been successful in steering an intermediate course. The fact that his book was helped by, and is dedicated to, the Family Service Association of America, is a good indication that it comes to grips with every-day family relations. The points he makes are driven home by countless reports of actual experiences of men and women. If it takes the place of some of the pseudo-psychoanalysis that has been so endlessly foisted on the public as a supposed aid to marital adjustment, the results will be salutary.

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YOUR TEENS AND MINE, by Eleanor Roosevelt with Helen Ferris. Pp. 189, (no index) price $2.95 from Doubleday & Co., Garden City, N.Y., 1961.

The inexhaustible Mrs. Roosevelt retells the story of her early life, ending with her marriage. Helen Ferris has assisted her in the production of two previous books. In this one, Mrs. Roosevelt deals frankly (as in her other writings) with her own problems and the way she surmounted them, using these experiences to illustrate the methods that other young people can use—or avoid using as the case may be. There can never be too much of this sort of practical discussion of the difficulties and delights of growing up.

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A NEW TREASURY OF NAMES OF THE BABY, by Dorothy Burton. Pp. 187 (paper covers), price $1.95 from Prentice-Hall, Englewood Cliffs, N.J., 1961.

One of the best of the books intended to help perplexed parents-to-be; but it should interest many others, especially all who have any feeling for genealogy. Meaning or supposed meaning (some are very doubtful) of the name is given, with frequent references to historic personages or contemporaries who bear it; and an introduction earnestly urges that more thought be given to naming children. A 12-point check list for the purpose deserves attention.

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SEXUAL BEHAVIOR: psycho-legal aspects, by Frank S. Caprio and Donald R. Brenner. Pp. 384, price $6 from Citadel Press, 222 Park ave. South, New York 3, N.Y., 1961.

A psychiatrist and a lawyer have thrown this book together to provide a scrappy and confused discussion of abnormal aspects of sexual behavior together with some remarks on birth

control, censorship, and similar problems. It is filled with quotations from newspaper and popular magazine articles, with some "case histories." Continued claims are made for the efficacy of psychiatric treatment, with no adequate evidence to support the claims; in fact, the lack of sound statistical analysis is conspicuous throughout. The index is as inadequate as the rest of the volume.

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CATHOLIC VIEWPOINT ON OVERPOPULATION, by Anthony Zimmerman. Pp. 214 (no index), price $3.50 from Doubleday & Co., Garden City, N.Y., 1961.

If any menace of overpopulation exists today, it is relative not absolute, says Dr. Zimmerman, a missionary-teacher in Japan; the cure is to be found in social and political reforms, not in "birth control." More production and better distribution are the answers to many of the difficulties now confronting some heavily-populated countries. The volume is tightly packed with facts and references to papal teachings, and will be challenged immediate and vehemently. The subject is one of the most important now facing mankind and a correct understanding of it is vital; every contribution is therefore welcome.

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ASYLUMS, by Erving Goffman. Pp. 386 (paper covers, no index), price $1.45 from Doubleday & Co., Garden City, N.Y., 1961.

Studies of mental hospitals fall mainly into two classes. There is a growing number of books in which a "recovered" inmate tells of his own experiences; the great bulk of the books represents the point of view of the professional staff. Erving Goffman of the sociology department of the University of California at Berkeley has taken a different point of view; he tries to see the situation of mental patients not as one of them sees it but as an educated observer sees it when he tries to put himself in the position of a patient. For this purpose he did many months of "field work" in some of the nation's largest mental hospitals. "It is the thesis of this book that the most important factor in forming a mental-hospital patient is his institution, not his illness." Psychiatrists will probably be quick to rebut the unflattering picture he gives of their profession.

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INTERACTION: television public affairs programming at the community level. Pp. 287, price $3 from Television Information Office, 666 Fifth ave., New York 19, N.Y., 1960.

This substantial volume, put out by a subsidiary of the National Association of Broadcasters, is intended to show how much television is doing to promote adult education—using that term very broadly indeed. It is an encouraging picture, even though many of the programs described are only on small local stations. But it is worth while noting how little attention is given to the every-day problems of marriage,—an area in which TV could make a great contribution, but which it largely ignores everywhere, so far as any constructive and educational presentation is concerned.

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HAPPY HOMES, by Francois Dantec. Pp. 187 (paper covers, no index), price $1.95 from the Newman Press, Westminster, Md., 1961.

Most unusual feature of this book is that it was written in French by a

priest in Basutoland. It carries a preface by the archbishop of Durban, Natal. First published in Paris, it now appears in a good translation, providing a detailed and authoritative statement of the Roman Catholic view of "Christian ideals in married life."

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MAN AND SEX, by Joseph J. Kaufman and Griffith Borgeson. Pp. 254, price $3.95 from Simon & Schuster 630 Fifth ave., New York 20, N.Y., 1961.

The authors get off to a bad start in their introduction, when they declare that they have avoided the discussion of sexual morality, "which is always personal and subjective." No nation has ever been able to survive if it accepted that fallacy, and the failure to recognize and teach the objective values of sexual morality is one of the greatest failures of modern sex education. They also announce that they will avoid psychosexual problems. These, however, are far too important and omnipresent for *anyone* to avoid. Dr. Kaufman, a urologist in private practice in Los Angeles, has had the assistance of a "popular science" writer. The first part of the book covers the usual material offered by books in this field, the latter part provides information about pathological conditions—many of them excessively rare.

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RESSENTIMENT, by Max Scheler. Pp. 201, price $4 from The Free Press of Glencoe, a division of the Crowell-Collier Pub. Co., 60 Fifth ave., New York 11, N.Y., 1961.

Ressentiment denotes an attitude which arises from cumulative repressions of feelings of hatred, envy, and revenge. When a person is unable to release these feelings against those who evoke them, he develops a sense of impotence; when these feelings and the consequent repression reoccur over a period of time, then ressentiment arises, — the term is derived from Nietzsche. Max Scheler was a German sociologist who died in 1928, and the book was written well on to a half century ago. It is translated by William W. Holdheim and edited with an introduction by Lewis A. Coser. This analysis of the possible source of many moral judgments, their relation to family life, and their association with Christianity, will appeal mainly to the specialist.

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WAKE UP YOUNGER, by Samuel Gertman and Helen Alpert. Pp. 256, (no index), price $4.95 from the Citadel Press, 222 Park ave., South, New York 3, N.Y., 1961.

"How to make the most of your later years" is the subject of this scrappily written but easily read book by two specialists in Miami, Fla. They discuss almost every phase of the subject that one can think of and their comments and suggestions are positive and vigorous.

•

WOMAN, by Joyce Brothers. Pp. 236 (no index), price $3.95 from Doubleday & Co., Garden City, N.Y., 1961.

Simple and sensible advice on love, marriage, and parenthood by a New York psychologist who has a syndicated TV program.

•

TRAITOR WITHIN: our suicide problem, by Edward Robb Ellis and George N. Allen. Pp. 237, price $3:95 from

Doubleday & Co., Garden City, N.Y., 1961.

Interesting and informative discussion of a much neglected problem, by two competent reporters on the staff of the N.Y. World-Telegram & Sun.

Other Books Received

THESPIS: ritual, myth, and drama in the ancient Near East, by Theodor H. Gaster. Pp. 515 (2d revised ed., paper bound), price $1.45 from Doubleday & Co., Garden City, N.Y., 1961.

MAY MAN PREVAIL? an inquiry into the facts and fictions of foreign policy, by Erich Fromm. Pp. 252 (no index), price $4.50 from Doubleday & Co., Garden City, N.Y., 1961.

THE REAL CHRISTMAS, by Pat Boone. Pp. 62 (no index), price $1.50 from Fleming H. Revell Co., Westwood, N.J., 1961.

MORAL EDUCATION, by Emile Durkheim. Pp. 288, price $6 from Free Press of Glencoe, 640 Fifth ave., New York 19, N.Y., 1961—First English translation of a classic published 35 years ago in France.

HOW I DISCOVERED THE SECRET OF SUCCESS IN THE BIBLE, by Clinton Davidson. Pp. 156 (no index), price $2.95 from Fleming H. Revell Co., Westwood, N.J., 1961.

SPELLING MADE SIMPLE, by John Waldman. Pp. 158 (large, paper covers), price $1.45 from Doubleday & Co., Garden City, N.Y., 1961.

FREUD: THE MIND OF THE MORALIST, by Philip Rieff. Pp. 441, paper covers, price $1.45 from Doubleday & Co., Garden City, N.Y.—Paper-back edition of a book which appeared two years ago.

THE BEER CAN BY THE HIGHWAY: essays on what's American about America, by John A. Kouwenhoven. Pp. 255, price $4.50 from Doubleday & Co., Garden City, N.Y., 1961.—Entertaining and penetrating analysis by a professor of English at Barnard College and former editor of *Harper's* magazine.

A KID NOBODY WANTS, by Robert Kost. Pp. 168 (no index), price $3.50 from Doubleday & Co., Garden City, N.Y., 1961—Semi-fictional account of life in an "orphans' home."

Educational Notes

COUNTRY BEAUTIFUL is a new monthly magazine published ($5.00 a year) at 12821 W. Blue Mound Road, Brookfield, Wis., and beautifully illustrated in color. Attempting "to help readers see the things of true value surrounding their lives," the magazine also emphasizes the values of family living.

POPULATION COUNCIL (230 Park ave., New York 17, N.Y.) reports assets of $2,670,044 in its annual report for 1960. Its funds are derived largely from Ford and Rockefeller sources. During the year it appropriated nearly one and one-half million dollars for support of its objectives, mainly the promotion of research on contraception and the dissemination of such information in overpopulated countries. It "limits itself to the technical and scientific aspects of population questions." A special grant of more than a million dollars from the Ford Foundation is being used to establish and support a five-year special program for training research workers in the field of the physiology of reproduction.

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MARRIAGE BEFORE AND AFTER, by Paul Popenoe, Sc.D.....$2.95

MODERN MARRIAGE: a handbook for men.....
by Paul Popenoe, Sc.D.....$3.95

A MAN FOR EVERY WOMAN, by Richard H. Klemer, Ph.D.....$3.95

LOOKING TOWARD MARRIAGE, by Roswell H. Johnson, Ph.D., Helen Randolph, and Erma Pixley, M.A.....$2.25

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